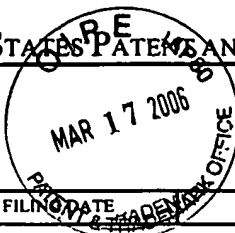




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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/786,245	02/24/2004	Kenneth H. Sinclair		5011

28731 7590 10/17/2005

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EXAMINER


RATCLIFFE, LUKE D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3662

DATE MAILED: 10/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

 <b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10786,245	SINCLAIR ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Luke D. Ratcliffe	3662		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, and 16- 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on 24 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C.

121:

- I. Claim 1-8 and 16-24, drawn to an optical odometer, classified in class 356, subclass 28.
- II. Claims 9-15, drawn to a method for providing automated shopping assistance, classified in class 701, subclass 23+.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice.

The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the optical odometer can be used in multiple other situations such as in the rotation of a gear or the amount of movement of a vehicle.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation with Lee Weinstein on 9/28/05 a provisional election was made **without** traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-8 and 16-24. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 9-15 are withdrawn from further

consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

### ***Claim Objections***

A series of singular dependent claims is permissible in which a dependent claim refers to a preceding claim which, in turn, refers to another preceding claim.

A claim which depends from a dependent claim should not be separated by any claim which does not also depend from said dependent claim. It should be kept in mind that a dependent claim may refer to any preceding independent claim. In general, applicant's sequence will not be changed. See MPEP § 608.01(n).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 16, 18, and 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Herr (5790243).

Referring to claims 1, 5, 16, and 18, Herr shows a system that includes an electronic image sensor having freedom of motion (figure 1), optics with a known scale factor coupled to the image sensor (figure 1), an analog to digital converter is inherent in any computer system with inputs of analog voltages, computer memory (figure 2), a clock oscillator (figure 2), and a distance calculating means (figure 3 and 4 Ref 2). The phase computation that is done by the computer console in this application does inherently calculate distance and uses that information to then calculate the surface of the pavement.

Referring to claim 2, Herr shows an orientation calculation means (column 1 line 60 to column 2 line 2).

Referring to claims 4 and 20-23, the wording of these claims with respect to the surface merely describes an intended use of the optical odometer and this does not add any patentable limitation to the optical odometer.

Referring to claim 7, Herr shows a means for measuring changes in the distance of said optics from the surface over time (column 1 and 2). In order to measure the pavement surface multiple measurements of different places on the pavement must be taken and using the difference of these changes one can deduce the surface characteristics of the pavement.

Referring to claim 19, Herr shows the ability to determine the velocity of said object from the integrated navigation sensor (column 6 and 7).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr (5790243) in view of Lapeyre (4688933).

Lapeyre shows the use of a fiducial mark (column 4 lines 4-27). It would have been obvious to modify Herr to include the fiducial mark as taught by Lapeyre because this is a simple way to determine the beginning or the end of a measurement area further making it easier to determine distance traveled.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr (5790243) in view of Lapeyre (4688933) as applied to claims 2 above, and further in view of Truax (4502785).

Traux shows telecentric lens (column 3 lines 59-66). It would be obvious to further modify Herr to use the telecentric lens taught by Traux because this allows the image to be any size that the user desires in any ratio to the actual size.

Claims 17 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr (5790243) as applied to claims 16, above, and further in view of Truax (4502785).

Referring to claims 17 and 24, Traux shows telecentric lens (column 3 lines 59-66). It would be obvious to further modify Herr to use the telecentric lens

taught by Traux because this allows the image to be any size that the user desires in any ratio to the actual size.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herr (5790243) in view of Lapeyre (4688933) as applied to claims 2 above, and further in view of Baker (2133241).

Baker shows the ability to stabilize the distance of the optics from the distance of the surface over time (column 6 lines 32-63). It would have been obvious to further modify Herr with the distance stability taught by Baker because this allows the ambient distance between the ground and the optics to remain constant and have the distance measuring device only measure the effect that the ground has on the device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luke D. Ratcliffe whose telephone number is 571-272-3110. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Tarcza can be reached on 571-272-6979. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LDR

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